

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02393 131545Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 /035 W

-----041589 140248Z /73

R 131420Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1704
INFO USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2393
LIMDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, PINT, HU

SUBJECT IV GRANTEE JANOS BEREZ: FOLLOW-UP

DEPT FOR EUR/EE

USICA FOR EU

1. AS FOLLOW-UP AFTER BEREZ'S RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES,
I INVITED HIM TO LUNCH AT THE RESIDENCE JUNE 12. AMBASSADOR
JANOS BARTHA AND THE PAO WERE PRESENT, AS WAS BEREZ INTER-
PRETER BUTYKAY.

2. BEREZ WAS VERY POSITIVE ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE U.S., AND
SAID THAT HE HAD SPENT AN HOUR WITH KADAR REPORTING ON IT.

3. IN HIS REPLY TO A QUESTION HOW HE BELIEVED U.S. - HUNGARIAN
RELATIONS SHOULD NOW EVOLVE, BEREZ SAID THAT DESPITE THE
PRESENT STRAINED SITUATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET
UNION, U.S. - HUNGARIAN RELATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE
GRADUALLY, IN SMALL STEPS. AS A SIGN OF SUCH CONTINUING
IMPROVEMENT HE SUGGESTED THAT A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
PERHAPS ISTVAN HUSZAR, SHOULD BE THE NEXT OFFICIAL TO
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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02393 131545Z

VISIT THE U.S. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT THE PRESENT STRAIN
IN U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS IS AN ABERRATION IN THE DETENTE
PROCESS AND THAT THE TWO POWERS COULD NOT ALLOW RELA-
TIONS TO DETERIORATE INDETERMINATELY.

4. WHEN BEREZ MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS SOME SURPRISE IN
WASHINGTON THAT A NOTICE OF HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. WAS

PUBLISHED IN HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS, BARTHA SAID IT WAS DECIDED TO PUBLICIZE THE TRIP OFFICIALLY INSTEAD OF LETTING THE NEWS COME OUT THROUGH VOA OR RFE. WHEN BARTHA MENTIONED RFE, BEREZCZ NOTED THAT HIS TRIP WAS COMMENTED ON BY TWO RFE SERVICES; FAVORABLY BY THE HUNGARIAN SERVICE, BUT NOT SO FAVORABLY BY THE ROMANIAN SERVICE.

COMMENT: MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT BEREZCZ WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH HIS VISIT. HIS PROGRAM WAS WELL ARRANGED AND HE SAID HIS TIME WAS SPENT MOST USEFULLY. THE ONLY THING HE DID NOT SEE WAS A FARM OPERATION, SOMETHING HE MENTIONED HE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO OBSERVE. HIS COMMENTS REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE MOMENTUM OF IMPROVEMENT IN U.S. - HUNGARIAN RELATIONS DESPITE THE DIPS AND VALLEYS IN U.S. - SOVIET RELATIONS, INDICATE THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE ANXIOUS TO KEEP THEIR WESTERN CONNECTIONS OPEN AND VIABLE. FURTHERMORE, IT ECHOES WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING QUITE OFTEN RECENTLY: THAT DESPITE PROBLEMS WITH MULTILATERAL ISSUES, I.E., AFRICA AND SALT, HUNGARY WISHES TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. CAREFULLY, BUT STEADILY.
KAISER

NOTE BY OC/T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER BUDAPEST 2397.
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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 02393 131545Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUDAPE02393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0791
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780667/aaaacfk.tel
Line Count: 93
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d6d498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2380026
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IV GRANTEE JANOS BEREZ: FOLLOW-UP DEPT FOR EUR/EE USICA FOR EU
TAGS: OEXC, PINT, HU, UR, US, (BARTHA, JANOS), (BERECZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d6d498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014